



Daniel Halden &lt;daniel.halden@lacity.org&gt;

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**FW: Announcing WIN (What I Need) – Connecting Homeless Youth to Resources**

1 message

**Kerry Morrison** <KerryMorrison@list.hollywoodbid.org>

Reply-To: kerrymorrison@list.hollywoodbid.org

To: Hollywood4WRD@list.hollywoodbid.org

Mon, May 30, 2016 at 11:04 PM

TO Hollywood 4WRD,

See information below.

Kerry

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**From:** Sheree Poitier [mailto:spoitier@ph.lacounty.gov]**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 5:15 PM**To:** KerryMorrison@list.hollywoodbid.org**Cc:** Patricia Alexander <paalexander@ph.lacounty.gov>**Subject:** FW: Announcing WIN (What I Need) – Connecting Homeless Youth to Resources

Dear Ms. Kerry Morrison,

My name is Sheree Poitier and I work at the LAC Public Health Department. Your name was given to me by Pat Alexander who is cc'd on this email. I have a friend who developed an APP. The details are below. I am not looking for donations with this email. I am trying to assist her in getting this App into the hands of people who will find it useful. Please take a look and if you find it useful, please forward it on. I would appreciate any feedback you have that might help her.

Thank you,

Sheree R. Poitier, MD

LAC Public Health Department

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**Subject:** Fwd: Announcing WIN (What I Need) – Connecting Homeless Youth to Resources

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Carla Buck**Date:** February 9, 2016 at 1:57:44 PM PST

**Subject: Announcing WIN (What I Need) – Connecting Homeless Youth to Resources**

As many of you know, for almost 2 years, I have been working with an agency, Our Children LA, to develop a mobile and web app to connect the homeless youth of Los Angeles County to free services that can help them. The app is called WIN, or What I Need. This app is now live and available in Google Play, The App Store and through the Our Children LA's website ([winapp.ourchildrenla.net](http://winapp.ourchildrenla.net)).

**THE NEED**

Why this App? Currently, Los Angeles County has the highest homeless population in the nation, last year estimated at around 44,000 on any given night. Unaccompanied youth (ages 12-25) are especially vulnerable and are often wary or fearful or even unwelcome at the centers where older and more chronically homeless can be found. Experts count anywhere from 4000 to 6000 of these youth on the streets on any given night, but they believe this number is actually higher because many youth live in the shadows, hiding from the counts, crashing on friend's floors – the runaways and throwaways.

**HOW WIN WILL HELP**

The goal of this app is to connect these youth with existing, free or very low cost services that can help get them off the streets. It will help youth find services that offer shelter, food, drop-ins, health, education, legal help, jobs and benefits and ones that serve their age, sex, background and are closest to them. It also allows policemen, librarians, case workers – any people encountering these youth - to find services and send information to the youth on how to access it.

Hence the app: WIN – What I Need.

**THANKS AND A REQUEST**

I want to thank so many of you for your input, interest, thoughts, help with taking pictures, entering data, all and more. I'd like to encourage you to download the app and let me know what you think – especially ways to get the word out to the youth. We are currently rolling out the app to Youth Drop-in centers throughout the county, county and city libraries, homeless liaisons at local schools, and county departments who work with the homeless. Our goal is to get as many youth to use it as possible so that we can begin to provide data to agencies to make the case of where the youth are and where they need help. We are also trying to post notices in places where homeless youth hang out (e.g. think free wifi) – quite a daunting task in an area as broad as LA County.

Additionally, we hope this could one day go beyond LA County. We've designed the app to make it easy for another county to use if they want to roll out in their area – exponentially growing its impact.

Any help you can give to spread the word to youth, agencies, influencers and potential funders or add resources we have missed would be very welcome. Sometimes the smallest idea or connection can make all the difference.

Again – thanks for the support!! Wish us luck as we move on to the next phase.\*\*

All the best,

Carla

**\* Downloading the App:**

a) Runs on Android phones version 4.1 and later and iPhone 4's and later. Use the keywords "WIN Homeless Youth" when downloading to your phone.

b) Link for Google PlayStore: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.whatined.ourchildrenla&hl=en>

c) Link for Apple App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/win-what-i-need/id1057836168?mt=8>

\*\* No pressure at all, but if you would like to support this effort in a monetary way, please go to <https://www.ourchildrenla.org>. We are a very LEAN organization so every dollar is appreciated.